



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the United States Trustee, Region 5

PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. TRUSTEE SUES MISSISSIPPI ATTORNEY FOR DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING, FALSE STATEMENTS

NEW ORLEANS—United States Trustee R. Michael Bolen today filed a lawsuit against Tupelo, Miss., attorney Denvil F. Crowe, alleging that Crowe made false representations to the bankruptcy court and victimized his clients by engaging in deceptive advertising. The complaint was filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi.

“Crowe’s deceptive advertisements are designed to mislead and misinform North Mississippians in financial distress,” Bolen stated. “The United States Trustee actively pursues those who threaten the integrity of the bankruptcy system by failing to make full disclosure, misleading the court, and victimizing debtors and creditors.”

Specifically, the complaint alleges that Crowe:

- Engaged in deceptive television advertising offering “debt consolidation” that failed to state that Crowe was in fact offering to represent potential clients in bankruptcy cases.
- Sold unnecessary “Powers of Attorney and Living Wills” to his bankruptcy clients to increase his fees.
- Provided little or no legal advice or counsel to his clients.
- Failed to disclose all fees to the bankruptcy court in violation of the Bankruptcy Code.
- Shared the fees collected from his clients with non-attorney staff and outside counsel in violation of the Bankruptcy Code.

The complaint asks the bankruptcy court to order Crowe to disgorge all fees collected from his clients for the “Powers of Attorneys and the Living Wills” and all other fees collected from the 36 clients named in the lawsuit, and to prohibit Crowe from engaging in the prohibited practices.

The United States Trustee Program is a component of the Justice Department that protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigating to enforce the bankruptcy laws. The Program has 21 regions and 95 field offices. Region 5 is headquartered in New Orleans with additional offices in Jackson, Miss., and Shreveport, La.

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